

FORCE PROTECTION FACTS

Common force protection acronyms:

CAC

The **common access card** (or “smart card”) is an integral component of U.S. Army, Europe’s installation access control system (see below). The identification card, which is embedded with a computer chip, offers a higher degree of security and accountability than is available with “regular” military ID cards.

FPCON

Force protection conditions are standardized identification and recommended responses to terrorist threats against U.S. personnel and facilities.

Four force protection condition levels exist above “Normal”:

■ **Alpha:** This condition applies when there is a general threat of possible terrorist activity against personnel and facilities, the nature and extent of which are unpredictable, and circumstances do not justify full implementation of higher measures.

■ **Bravo:** This condition applies when an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists.

■ **Charlie:** This condition applies when an incident occurs or intelligence is received indicating some form of terrorist action against personnel and facilities is imminent.

■ **Delta:** This condition applies in the immediate area where a terrorist attack has occurred or when intelligence indicates that terrorist action against a specific location or person is likely. Normally, this force protection condition is declared as a localized condition.

IACS

Developed in coordination with the Defense Department’s Defense Manpower Data Center and 5th Signal Command, U.S. Army, Europe’s **Installation Access Control System** is an automated system that employs “smart cards” and handheld digital assistants to move installation access control beyond a reliance on printed ID material.

JSIVA

Begun in the wake of the 1996 terrorist attack on Khobar Towers, Saudi Arabia, **Joint Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessments** are conducted worldwide to determine force protection vulnerabilities and provide options to assist installation commanders in mitigating or overcoming them.

SNAP

The **Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program** is a USAREUR-wide program similar to stateside “Neighborhood Watch” efforts. For more about SNAP in the 6th ASG, look to your right.



Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program volunteer observers Colleen Aldridge and Dan Wall patrol a Patch Barracks housing area Feb. 18. The 6th Area Support Group’s SNAP initiative depends upon community volunteers to augment force protection on area installations.

USAREUR program helps keep neighborhoods safe

Volunteers essential for SNAP success

Story & photo by
Hugh C. McBride

Fresh air, free vacations and the latest in force protection fashion – for community members with a few spare hours and a concern for installation safety, the Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program is the place to be.

A U.S. Army, Europe, undertaking modeled after the “Neighborhood Watch” programs popular in many stateside communities, SNAP is a volunteer-fueled effort to augment on-post force protection troops.

Under the direction of Coordinator Kaye Williams, Stuttgart’s SNAP initiative has been recruiting and training volunteer observers to be “extra eyes and ears” on Kelley Barracks, Panzer Kaserne, Patch Barracks and Robinson Barracks since July 2002.

Though the program’s numbers have been steadily increasing since then, Williams said she has plenty of room for anyone who wants to help. “We’re always looking for volunteers,” she said, adding that SNAP observers – who work as much or as little as they like – can earn free USO trips for their service.

Any U.S. identification cardholder over the age of 18 is eligible to become a SNAP volunteer, Williams said. Once a “new recruit” has completed a two-hour training session offered by the 6th Area Support Group Provost Marshal’s Office, he or she can begin making the rounds as part of a two-person observational team.

Armed with cellular telephones and report books

(and adorned in eye-catching blaze orange safety vests) SNAP teams are on the lookout for events as insidious as lurking strangers or innocuous as burned-out lights.

Non-emergency issues (such as lighting) are noted in reports filed with installation coordinators, while situations demanding a rapid response are brought to the attention of the military police.

Volunteer Dan Wall said the program gives community members a great opportunity to make a difference. “I got involved because I wanted to help out,” he said. “It just seemed like a good idea.”

For more information call 421-2322/civ. 0711-729-2322, e-mail williamst@6asg.army.mil, or log onto www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/snap.htm.



Make neighborhood safety a SNAP:

Promote a safe and secure environment.

Report abandoned cars, graffiti, vandalism.

Observe surroundings.

Teach others to be aware.

Emphasize good crime prevention habits.

Common sense when off-duty or traveling.

Talk to your neighbors and get to know them.

source: SNAP Web site